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Agenda item 123
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.47

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.47, the General Assembly would decide that the measures taken by the Secretary-General should not be implemented and would request the Secretary-General to restore the services that have been reduced. Under the terms of the same resolution the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to present a report containing proposals on the implementation of its resolution 56/254 of 24 December 2001 in a way that does not affect the services provided for Member States, taking into consideration the current budgetary procedures, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and the Financial Regulations and Rules, for its consideration and approval at its resumed fifty-sixth session.

2. It should be recalled that, in resolution 56/254, the General Assembly approved appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003 in the amount of $2,625,178,700. It should be further recalled that the programme budget proposed and related statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates stood at $2.7 billion and that the Assembly decided to effect reductions under a number of specific objects of expenditure in resolution 56/253, in particular in paragraph 70. Those reductions have left the Organization with insufficient resources to maintain services for meetings, to manage the premises and to provide information technology services at existing levels. The administration of the budget within the level decided by the General Assembly has therefore required that appropriate measures be taken.

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3. If the level of the budget appropriations is to be maintained at $2,625,178,700 as decided by the Assembly, these measures cannot be discontinued, as requested in the draft resolution.

4. With regard to the request for a report, given the areas in which the Assembly has decided to make reductions, it would not be possible to make proposals to implement the budget at the level decided without affecting the services provided for Member States.